

ILCC News

Newsletter of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission

A Letter from ILCC Director, Donovan Borvan



**ILCC Director,
Donovan Borvan**

As you may have noticed, you are reading the very first edition of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's Newsletter that is being distributed in an electronic format. We made the decision to move to an electronic format as part of a broader initiative at the ILCC to provide better, more efficient communication with our licensees while saving money. Please let us know what you think of the new format, and any other thoughts or ideas that you might have about how we can better serve ILCC licensees and the citizens of Illinois.

With that goal of service to licensees and the public in mind, there are three things that the ILCC will be emphasizing this year. First, we are in the early stages of preparing a series of training materials for ILCC

licensees. The goal is to educate all ILCC licensees about their particular license and what is – and is not – permissible under Illinois law based on the license type. Our thought is that most violations stem not from an attempt to violate the law but rather from lack of information about what the law requires. These trainings will address common pitfalls and violations, and how they can be avoided. If you are interested in helping the ILCC develop these training materials or have any ideas, please reach out to us at any time.

Second, the illegal importation of alcoholic liquor across state lines remains a major issue and stopping illegal importation remains the overall top priority for the ILCC. The ILCC has ramped up efforts to enforce the law and prevent illegal importation over the past year, and will continue to do so throughout 2018. Any savings that retail licensees may generate by buying products across state lines surely are not worth the potential loss of license that may result.

Finally, the ILCC remains committed to ensuring the public safety of the citizens of Illinois. In 2018, the ILCC will increase the number of licensed location inspections and underage compliance checks with the goal of ensuring compliance with the public safety requirements of Illinois law. Please be sure that your licensed location meets the legal requirements of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and that you are checking IDs to prevent underage sales.

The ILCC is looking forward to a productive and safe 2018. Please make sure to share this newsletter with your staff and any other individuals who might benefit from its contents. As always, we at the ILCC are here to serve you, and are available to discuss any issues that you might have.

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ILCC.illinois.gov



Illinois will become a mandatory state requiring server training by 2018

By Lee J. Roupas, *ILCC BASSET Program Manager*

The importance of Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) has many obvious reasons. Servers and bartenders are selling a legal drug. Anyone serving alcohol should be trained and certified on how to serve it in a safest way possible. Like any other profession, licensing and training is necessary for public safety, avoiding lawsuits and profitability for a business.

Anyone walking into a liquor serving establishment should be analyzed as to whether they are presently impaired or may be impaired with the purchase of alcohol at that establishment. BASSET training provides the information and techniques that will curb alcohol-related incidents when applied.

Since the BASSET program's inception it was a voluntary program. It was at the jurisdiction of local municipalities to require it for servers. Even if it was not mandatory locally businesses required it of their employees as policy for best practices. As the program became more prominent in the hospitality industry, more businesses and communities in Illinois started embracing it. More local jurisdictions began requiring the BASSET certification.

The signing of Public Act 99-0046 on July 15, 2015 requires on premise servers from (bars, restaurants, taverns and sports bars), along with those checking IDs for alcohol service or bar entry to successfully complete a BASSET course taught by a BASSET trainer licensed through the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. When the law was passed it was suited to make the mandatory process gradual and mandatory by county and population of those counties. For instance Cook County, the nation's second largest county was the first to require mandatory training. Additionally, counties with populations of 200,000 and over became mandatory in 2016. This current year it was for 40 counties with a population of 30,000 – 200,000 people. By July 1, 2018 the remaining 52 counties in Illinois with 30,000 or less will be the final counties to become mandatory.



The goal is for the entire State of Illinois to benefit from server training to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths, incidents caused by binge drinking and prevention sales of alcohol to minors. The industry will also benefit by being encouraged to provide better customer service, establish sound policies, procedures and practices that will keep establishments safer and in compliance with local and state laws. It will keep establishments safer for their guests and employees.

For more information or if in need of a BASSET certification additional information can be found on the ILCC website www.ILCC.illinois.gov.



ILCC News

Article suggestions are welcome!

The Commission welcomes your input to enhance the *ILCC News* publication. If you have a suggestion for an article topic or a helpful hint to share with other licensees, please contact the Commission's Chicago Office.

ILCC News is published by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission for state liquor licensees, local government officials, industry associations and related government agencies.

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9th Annual College Town Summit held in Macomb

Representatives from colleges throughout Illinois attended the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) 9th Annual College Town Summit, held on November 9, 2017 at Western Illinois University. Presentations focused on timely topics pertaining to alcohol-related issues on college campuses. Topics included: Neurological effects of alcohol, binge drinking, sexual assault, prevention and recovery on college campuses. For the second year in a row the summit included a student panel and expo.

The ILCC would like to thank the staff at Western Illinois University for hosting the event. Next year's College Town Summit will be October 2018 with details to be announced at a later date. For more information about the College Town Summit contact Lee Roupas by sending an email message to lee.roupas@illinois.gov.

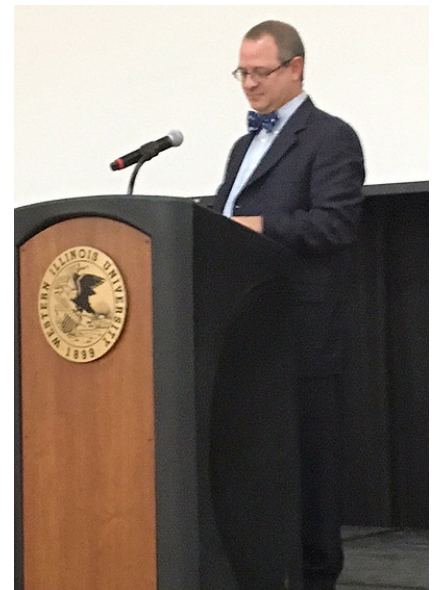


Industry expert, Bob Pomplun conducts a break out session.

**ILCC BASSET
Program Manager,
Lee Roupas
addresses the
attendees.**



Dr. Matthew Blankenship from Western Illinois University spoke on the Neurological Effects of Alcohol.



Dr. Eric Davidson from the Illinois Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Other Drug, and Violence Prevention emceed the event.



The student panel gave the students' perspective.



Liquor Commission taps Eric Cato to lead compliance and investigations



Eric Cato, Manager of Liquor Compliance and Investigations

Eric Cato was recently appointed to the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) to serve as the Manager of Liquor Compliance and Investigations. He will be responsible for overseeing licensee compliance with laws, best practices and regulations.

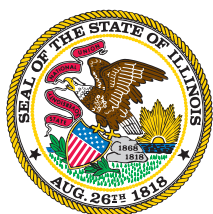
"We would like to implement a strong enforcement presence with an objective to crackdown on illegal transportation of alcohol in the State of Illinois," said Cato. He added, "The state is losing millions in revenue due to illegal importation."

Prior to coming the ILCC, Cato was with the Chicago Police Department for 26 years. He was the Sergeant in the Bureau of Organized Crime and Narcotics Division. Just as he cracked down on drugs in Chicago, now would like to crack down on underage sales of alcohol in Illinois.

When not working he enjoys riding his motorcycle, and most importantly spending time with his family.



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ILCC BASSET Program

By July 2018, BASSET training will be mandatory in the entire State of Illinois. A BASSET certification expires in three years. Additional information, including a listing of courses and our licensed BASSET providers, can be found on the ILCC website at www.ILCC.illinois.gov.

Counties that will require BASSET certification by July 1, 2018.

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Hamilton | Pike |
| Bond | Hancock | Pope |
| Brown | Hardin | Pulaski |
| Calhoun | Henderson | Putnam |
| Carroll | Iroquois | Richland |
| Cass | Jasper | Saline |
| Clark | Jersey | Schuyler |
| Clay | Jo Daviess | Scott |
| Crawford | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cumberland | Lawrence | Stark |
| De Witt | Marshall | Union |
| Douglas | Mason | Wabash |
| Edgar | Massac | Warren |
| Edwards | Menard | Washington |
| Fayette | Mercer | Wayne |
| Ford | Moultrie | White |
| Gallatin | Perry | |
| Greene | Piatt | |

Online liquor license renewal can offer savings

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) Licensing Department would like to remind liquor license holders to renew your license online. The online renewal process will save you time and a reduced license fee. (For example, by renewing your retail license online it will cost \$600. If you renew in person or by mail it is a \$750 license fee).



If you need assistance with your online renewal please contact the ILCC Chicago office at 312-814-2206, or the Springfield office at 217-782-2136.